

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A document editing apparatus for displaying on a screen a document comprising a content described in plural permeable layers by displaying the permeable layers one on another on the screen, the apparatus comprising:

document synthesis means for displaying ~~a-the permeable layers~~ that ~~has~~have been set to be displayed on a screen based on display/non-display setting included in data of each layer;

document editing means for generating a new permeable layer based on a user entry of comments among multiple user entries and adding thereof to the document comprising permeable layers displayed on the screen and for generating, when the new permeable layer is added, information of the permeable layers displayed on the screen as ~~at-add-time~~ layer display state information at the time of adding the new permeable layer;

layer state managing means for managing the ~~at-add-time~~ layer display state information in correlation with the new added permeable layer;

display designation receiving means for receiving a display designation for specifying an arbitrary layer from a user; and

layer state reproducing means for controlling the document synthesis means to display the permeable layer that was displayed on the screen when the specified permeable layer was added based on the ~~at-add-time~~ layer display state information at the time of adding the new permeable layer in response to reception of the layer specification from the display designation receiving means, wherein the state of the document when the specified permeable layer was added is reproduced.

2. (Currently Amended) The document editing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the document editing apparatus comprises a client apparatus and a server apparatus connected to each other by way of a communication line, and wherein

the client apparatus comprises the document synthesis means, the document editing means, the display designation receiving means, and ~~and~~ layer state reproducing means, and

the server apparatus comprises the layer state managing means and document managing means for managing data of each permeable layer.

3. (Currently Amended) The document editing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein

the client apparatus further comprises layer state temporarily storing means for temporarily storing ~~at-add time~~ layer display state information of each of plural permeable layers added by the document editing means, transmitting the temporarily stored ~~at-add time~~ layer display ~~sate~~-state information to the layer state managing means when the added plural permeable layer data pieces are transmitted to the document managing means and reflected on the document, and controlling the layer state managing means to manage it.
